COMPUTER SYSTEM, METHOD, AND BUSINESS METHOD FOR AUTOMATING BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus, method, and method for doing business allows two business
5   partners to communicate with each other in an architected manner. A first company
monitors for changes to its internal data structure that indicate that communication with a
second company may be required. A trigger mechanism monitors the data structure for
changes, and invokes a software application when the data structure is changed in a
defined manner. The software application extracts the new or changed data from the data
10   structure, formats the data into an XML document, and sends the XML document to the
second company via a secure communication mechanism, such as a virtual private
network (VPN). The second computer system receives the information from the first
computer system, parses the information, and processes the information. The second
computer system then generates an appropriate response to the first computer system. In
15   this manner, the first and second computer systems can communicate in an architected
manner using XML documents, thereby allowing automation of processes between the
two companies.